(b) and (c) Preliminary discussions held by GE and Westinghouse with NPCIL so far have resulted in exchange of technical information which are already in public domain. The cost and other commercial details are not yet discussed. Discussions with vendors from other countries also have not reached the stage of commercial details.

US-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation

1864. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation is now operational; and

(b) the steps that are still pending to operationalise it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The India-US Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was signed on October 10, 2008. Pursuant to Article 16 of the Agreement, diplomatic notes for bringing the Agreement into effect were exchanged on December 6, 2008.

On December 5, 2008, Government presented another diplomatic note to the US side nominating a nodal point for the Administrative Arrangement to be established for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, pursuant to Article 17; and requesting the US side to nominate a nodal point for the same. The response of the US side is awaited.

Atomic power plants in Andhra Pradesh

1865. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. has come forward to establish an atomic power plant in Pulivendula mandal, Andhra Pradesh, as a joint venture with APGenco with an approximate outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal of such new joint ventures to establish new nuclear and atomic power plants in East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when such new plants would come up in the above districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) has requested NPCIL to explore the possibility of setting up a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh as a joint venture. The discussions are at a very preliminary stage.

The Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Department of Atomic Energy had earlier evaluated a site at Kovvada, Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. No decision has been taken on the sites for future nuclear power stations.